

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 15-16, 18-23 and 25 are in the application. Claim 25 has been amended. Claim 24 has been canceled. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 15-25 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 8-90481 in view of GB 2 118 524 and further in view of EP 0 352 576 A2. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants have amended claim 25 to incorporate the elements of claim 24, now canceled. Claim 25 now claims that the housing has a thread or projection for connection of an external hose of the hose pack. This ensures that the weight of the hose pack will not act directly on the coupling means but will be transmitted on the housing of the switch-off box. This way the behavior of the switch-off box is not negatively affected by the hose pack.

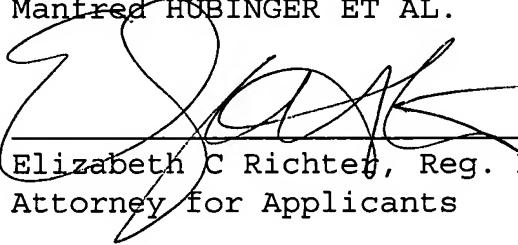
None of the cited references teaches or suggests this additional connection on the housing.

Furthermore, none of the cited references teaches or suggests a switch-off box having an insulated, resiliently mounted coupling having a supporting surface for punctual contact with the housing to activate contact or switching elements via lifting of the supporting surface from the housing. The device of GB 2 118 524, does not have these features, even when combined with the other two references.

Accordingly, Applicants submits that claim 25 as amended, is patentable over the cited references, taken either singly or in combination. Claims 15-16 and 18-23 depend from claim 25 are therefore believed to be patentable as well. Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Copy of Petition for two-month Extension of Time

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